

20th Street
Walking Tour



Rock Island, Illinois

20th Street Residential Area History

Twentieth Street became a fashionable address for prominent Rock Island citizens during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Although the earliest home along the tour route was built at the close of the Civil War in 1865 and the latest in 1936, most of the homes were built within a 40 year span between 1870 and 1910. This new development, southeast of the downtown area, replaced older neighborhoods west of downtown on the Mississippi River flood plain as prime residential property.

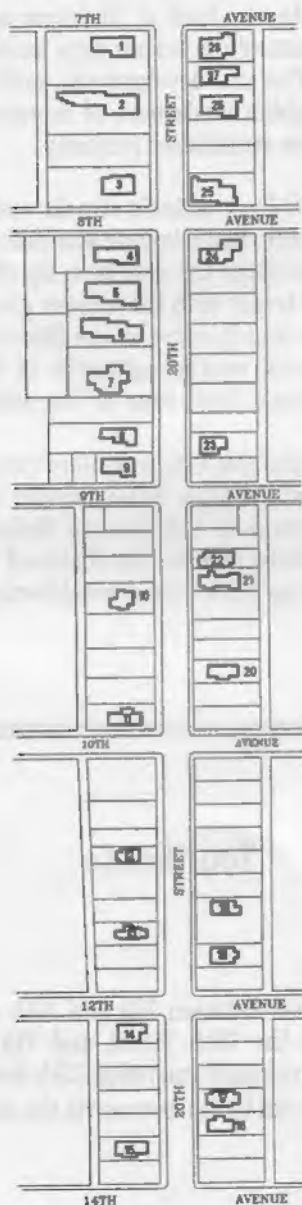
Prior to the numbering of Rock Island's streets and avenues, 20th Street was known as Madison Street. Ninth Avenue was called Indian Boundary and followed an east/west line from the southern tip of Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River. An 1816 treaty with the Indians gave them the land north of that line. That line was also to serve as the Illinois-Wisconsin state line. Should that have occurred, everything north of 9th Avenue, including downtown Rock Island, would have been in Wisconsin.

Twentieth Street remains the main thoroughfare through the neighborhood known as the Broadway Historic Area. Its boundaries are roughly 17th Street to 24th Street and 7th Avenue to 13th Avenue. Walking tours are available for other streets in the Historic Area, the Highland Park Historic District, and many other interesting Rock Island neighborhoods.

Tour Route

The walk covers 20th Street between 7th and 13th Avenues, beginning at the southwest corner of the 20th Street and 7th Avenue intersection. Proceed south on 20th street until you reach 13th Avenue. Cross to the east side of 20th Street and return to 7th Avenue via the east side of 20th Street.

TWENTIETH STREET WALKING TOUR CITY OF ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS



1. Lowrey/Conner/Parker House (ca. 1888). 702 - 20th Street.

Queen Anne style. The house was built for Homer J. Lowrey but owned by James Conner and descendants from 1892 to the 1940's. The Parker family has owned it since. The central tower is original. The front porch has been enlarged; it was similar to the present side porch when built. The south gable has two styles of shingles and unique applied boards. The north gable has three liny windows with "stoops" under each. Note the lovely north porch



with curved railing which frames a semi-circular stained glass window, and iron cresting on the roof. A large rear addition was built in 1906. Note the carriage house. This house has been designated a Rock Island Local Landmark and is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

2. Mitchell House (ca. 1888). 720 - 20th Street.

Italianate. Buill for banker Phil Mitchell, son of early Rock Island settler Phileomon Mitchell, founder of the Mitchell and Lynde Bank. The belvedere on the roof is original. A massive curved porch which graced the entire front of the house is gone. The classic square Italianate style is evident although many of the architectural details (paired brackets, kneehole windows, etc.) have been removed or covered.



3. Mixter House (1899). 734 - 20th Street. (demolished)

This house was built for Frank Mixter by John Volk at a cost of \$13,000. Mixter owned the Rock Island Slove Company. The original wrap-around front porch is gone. Note the semi-circular south bay with colored glass skylights above. The front dormer with three detached columns is original.



4. Barnhardt-Gadi-ent House (ca. 1875). 804 - 20th Street.

The house's style shows a Mediterranean influence. Note the front oriel window with radiating arched top.

arched three-pointed attic window and unusual gable shape. The high basement is unusual in Rock Island.



5. Mosenfelder House (ca. 1875). 808 - 20th Street.

Italianate. It was built for H.C. Connolly but sold to Alphonse Mosenfelder, clothier, in 1886 for \$6,000. Note the massive brackets and hexagonal kneehole windows in the attic as well as the drapery effect stone arches over the tall, narrow windows and doors.



6. Sweeney House (ca. 1874). 816 - 20th Street.

It is a front gable Italianate that was built for prominent attorney Edward D. Sweeney. Note the square first floor bay window on the south and the drapery effect stone over the round top windows. The wrap-around front porch was probably added around the turn of the century. The back porch has been enclosed. The original porches probably resembled those still on the house at 848 - 20th Street, a house almost identical in style and floorplan.



7. Jackson House (ca. 1874). 824 - 20th Street.

Gothic Revival influence. It was built for William Jackson, law partner of Edward D. Sweeney. Jackson was also Rock Island's first Park Commissioner. Most of the original exterior detail is gone. A three story tower with steeply hipped roof and topped with iron cresting extended above the front door. A porch ran across the entire front of the house and all windows had tall shutters. A carved walnut staircase can still be found in the remaining lower portion of the tower.



8. Huesing House (ca. 1890). 842 - 20th Street.

Built for Albert D. Huesing, founder of A.D. Huesing Bottling Company. The original front porch was narrow; the present wrap-around porch was added around the turn of the century and the geometric brick work dates from the 1920's. The smaller original back porch has square chamfered columns and square spindles with sawn brackets. Note the hexagonal window in the front gable.

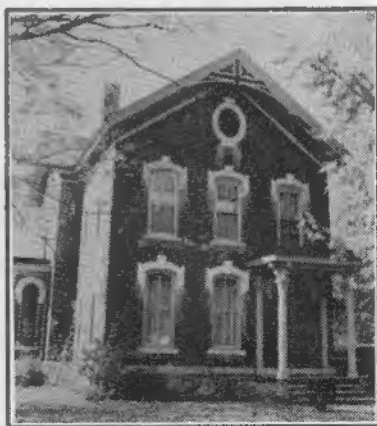


9. Hansgen House (1874).

848 - 20th Street.

A front gable Italianate. It was built for Charles Hansgen, a downtown grocer, by John Volk.

The double front doors, porches, and detail on the south bay are all original. Note the tall round top windows with cut stone drapery effect arches (brick on side windows), stone sills and double keystone oval gable window. The spacious south bay and back porch are particularly lovely. Photographs from the 1880's show shutters on all windows, iron cresting on the roof of the front porch and the south bay, and a wooden picket fence enclosing the yard. The house remained in the Hansgen family until 1976. This is one of the finest examples of front gable Italianate style in Rock Island, and has been designated a Local Landmark.



10. Welch - Bane House (ca. 1892). 918 - 20th Street.

This house has been occupied by only two families since it was built. It was built by the Allen D. Welch family, who occupied it until the mid-1950's, when the Curtis Bane family purchased it. Welch was employed by Henry

Dart's Sons, a wholesale grocery business downtown. Few architectural details of this Eastlake style home have been changed. Only a south porch has been enclosed. Note the three bays on the north, south, and front, with fancy brackets on the side bays. This house shows an example of "stick-style" or applied boards on the front gable. Note the detailing on several windows.



11. McNevin - Searle House. (ca. 1899). 934 - 20th Street.

This house was built in 1899 at a cost of \$5,000. McNevin was a partner in McNevin and Gansert, a firm which sold candies, tobacco, oysters and celery. From about 1904 until the mid-1940's, the home was occupied by the family of Charles V. Searle. Searle was an attorney who became a circuit court judge. Very decorative Palladian windows make the shingled gables an important focal point of this house. Notice the dentils between the transoms and the windows. The original wrap-around porch is still present,

but the decorative turned spindles and the railing have been partially removed.



12. Rinck House (ca. 1897). 1020 - 20th Street.

This Queen Anne influenced house was built by Frederick W. Rinck and remained in the same family until the late 1920's. Rinck was a salesman. This house retains much of its original architectural integrity. It was rehabilitated in 1989. Notice the three



story tower and the front gable with its spiderweb window and the shingles with scalloped bottoms. Dentils adorn the porch roof and under the drip edge between the first and second story. Also notice the round top window in the south gable.

13. Bailey House (ca. 1894). 1034 - 20th Street.

This house may have been built by Kennedy L. Bailey. The Bailey family members lived here until around 1916. Although covered with aluminum, some interesting architectural details remain. The combination of the mansard roof with cross gable is very unusual. The roof style coupled with the use of a semi-circular and a diamond shaped window in front at attic level draw the eye upward to give a very vertical emphasis to this structure. Notice the bays, the beveled and stained glass windows, and the exposed chimney with decorative brick work.



14. Ehrhorn House (ca. 1899). 1200 - 20th Street.

A very unusual roof line gives this house its character and individuality. The front has a high truncated hip roof with a large gambrel dormer and two hip dormers. The rear has a regular hip roof with a fanlight and torch motif on the front dormer as well as cross-shaped motif and superimposed circles. A large window with a fanlight on the north has been boarded up.



15. Silvis House (1899). 1226 - 20th Street.

Queen Anne influence. It was built for Richard Shipman Silvis, Jr., son of the man for whom the town of Silvis was named, for \$3,800. The contractor was A. Anderson. The high cross gable roof with a double, or false, gable in the front gives the asymmetrical effect common to the Queen Anne style.



The false gable has support brackets as does the cantilevered scroll brackets also common to the Queen Anne style. Note the small pilasters which grace the double window in the false gable, the porch with Truscan columns, and the many beautiful windows.

*CROSS 20TH STREET TO THE EAST AND
TURN NORTH*

16. Gustafson House (ca. 1980). 1223 - 20th Street.

Colonial revival but with Queen Anne influences. Built for John A. Gustafson, who operated men's clothing store at 1821 - 2nd Avenue, downtown. Porch supports have Ionic capitals on unusual convex curved columns and small stone pedestals. Turned spindles and fancy sawn trim are in place of the usual lattice work. The roof is hipped with bellcast gables. There is a square bay on the north, a round bay on the front and a tower-like two story bay on the south. The Palladian window in the front gable has two styles of columns. Note the many beveled and stained glass windows.



17. Dolly Hance House (ca. 1901). 1219 - 20th Street.

It was built for John P. Dolly, who operated a downtown men's clothing store at 307 - 30th Street. The brick is laid in stretcher bond. The tall dark cut stone foundation creates a pleasing contrast in color and texture to the brick above. Note the unusual octagonal tapered columns and the four beautiful stained glass windows.



18. Ammermann Harris House (ca. 1905). 1043 - 20th Street.

Colonial revival style. It was built for Wesley P. Ammermann, secretary for L.S. McCabe Company. The house has a bellcast dormer. The porch pillars have an unusually large diameter. Note the beveled oval front door window, the leaded oriel window on the south side and triple stairway window on the north.



19. Cowden House (ca. 1897). 1033 - 20th Street.

The octagonal bay dormer is an unusual detail as is the gable extending and flaring outward to form a second story bay in front. Brackets have been removed from the front bay and aluminum siding now covers narrow wooden clapboards.

20. Dolly House (1899). 931 - 20th Street.

The house was built for Thomas H. Dolly, brother and business partner of John P. Dolly, by Heidemann and Schroeder, contractors. Cost \$5,000. After the house was built, the adjacent property owner to the north claimed the house was built six feet onto his property. A landmark case before the Illinois Supreme Court followed. The house has cross gable floor with bellcast ends. Note the fanlight window on the stairway and the beautiful Palladian window with a scroll in the front gable.



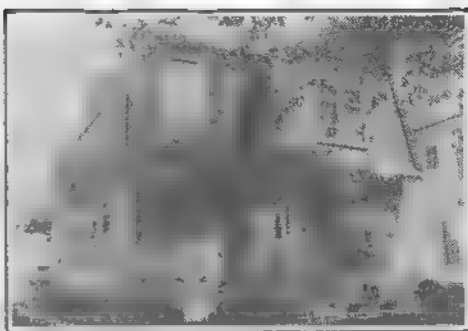
21. Cleaveland House (1895). 915 - 20th Street.

Queen Anne influence. It was built for Harry H. Cleaveland of Hayes and Cleaveland Insurance Company. Simon Mosenfelder, of Mosenfelder and Kohn Clothiers lived here from 1917 to 1924. An exceptional amount of decorative detail covers the house. There are fancy scroll molding and dentils at the gable top. Sprays, garlands, fleur-de-lis are but some of the detail.

22. Rosenfield Houses (1894) 909 and 905 20th Street.

These are twin houses built by Meyer Rosenfield along with 901 20th Street and 2012 9th Avenue. Total cost for the four houses was \$9,000. The architect was George Stauduhar. Construction was by Horst and Peterson. The roof is a combination of gambrel and hip with a shingled second story. The wavy-sawn porch spindles are very unusual. Note the third floor tower-like roofline with tiny paned windows on the south sides. Also note the urn

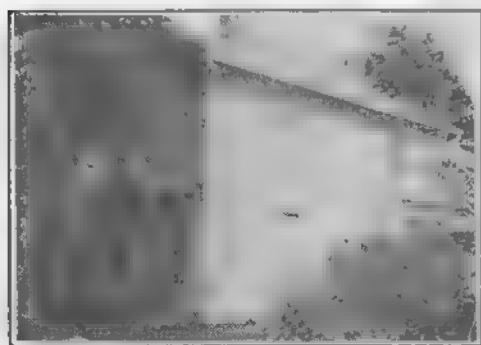
motif over the second floor front windows and the variety of windows themselves.



23. Cleaveland House
(ca. 1880). 843 - 20th Street.

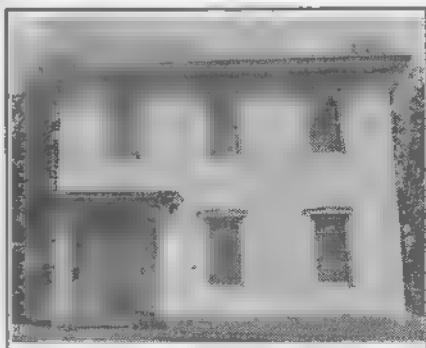
Henry C. Cleaveland, patriarch of a prominent Rock Island family, built this house at the time of his marriage to the daughter of his insurance partner, W.H. Hayes. Herbert G. Copp, director of purchasing at Deere and Company,

owned the house from 1908 until the mid-1940's. The most outstanding feature remaining is the beautiful gable ornament. The front porch detail would probably have echoed it. Aluminum siding now covers narrow wooden clapboards. Note the lattice work on the back porch.



24. Arndt House (ca. 1870).
803 - 20th Street.

Little is known of this house. Samuel M. Arndt lived here from about 1900 through the late 1920's. He owned a cigar emporium downtown. The carved wooden trim over the windows is probably original.



25. Weishar Apartments (1914). 735 20th Street.

John A. Weishar built this Mediterranean influenced apartment building. The sawn stone entry with a segmented arch leads to a beautiful foyer in black and white marble with a hexagonal tile floor. Each apartment has french doors which open onto a small iron balcony.



26. Magill House (ca. 1865). 715 - 20th Street.

This house is believed to have been built for Dr. William I. Magill, a dentist. The wood front porch with its latticed Moorish trellis design is reminiscent of the Carpenter Gothic style. Note the cut stone sills and radiating lintels with keystones on the windows.



27. Plummer House (ca. 1880). 709 - 20th Street.

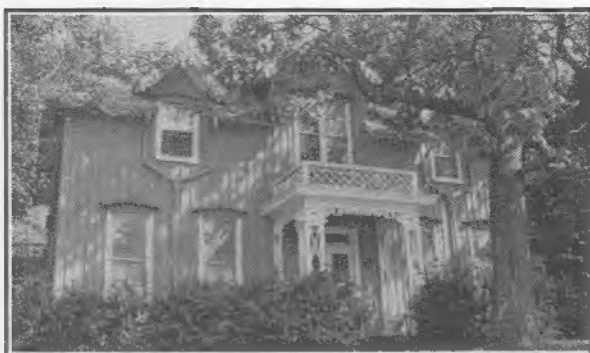
Second Empire. This is the second house built on 20th Street for Dr. Samuel Plummer. Distinctive Mansard roof with hexagonal and rectangular slates is rare in the Quad Cities. The Mansard style roof allows three full stories in what appears to be a two story house. Note the excellent stone work in the window sills and lintels. Inside is a walnut staircase rising from a parquet-floored hall. The wrap-around front porch is a turn of the century addition.



28. Spencer House (ca. 1865). 705 - 20th Street.

Gothic Revival. Believed built for Dr. Samuel Plummer upon his return from the Civil War. He later built the red brick next door. Purchased by John E. Spencer in the 1890's, the Spencer family lived here until the 1950's. John was the son of the Roswell Spencer who with his brother, also named John, were early settlers of Rock Island. The Spencer brothers received title to much of the land in and near the present downtown area from the U.S. Government in 1835.

The Gothic Revival style is extremely rare in the Quad Cities and this example is in excellent condition. The board and batten siding over hidden brick walls is original. The brick was used for insulation. Note the over hidden brick walls are original. The brick was used for insulation. The gambrel (barn) style roof, sawn lattice forming a second story balcony on the porch and sawn lattice supports with top scroll work. The bargeboard (roof edge) trim has a pendant trefoil design. The oriel window on the south has a decorative wooden keystone and scrolls; there is a bracketed gables molding over other windows.



Spencer House

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOURS OF ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

1. Highland Park Historic District
2. 20th Street Residential Area
3. Downtown Rock Island
4. 22nd and 23rd Street Residential Area
5. Spencer Place/19th Street Area
6. Western Downtown Rock Island
7. Olof Z. Cervin 1918 Government Housing

WALKING TOUR BROCHURE PREPARED BY

Bruce L. Ohrlund

FROM RESEARCH COMPILED BY

The Rock Island Preservation Society

1988



**City of
ROCK ISLAND**

For further information regarding this or other Rock Island walking tour brochures, contact the City of Rock Island Planning and Redevelopment Division at (309)793-3442.

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